



June 18, 2012

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to ***The Road to Resilience Tour: Overcoming Hunger and Homelessness*** Sunday, August 12th and Monday, August 13th. The tour will culminate in Sacramento with a hearing of the Senate Human Services Committee on Tuesday, August 14th. ***The Road to Resilience*** will explore the plight of individuals and families experiencing hunger and homelessness as a result of the recession. We will learn how seniors, in particular, are suffering from limited access to healthy food. We will visit innovative and effective anti-poverty programs at various locations in the state and learn more about promoting positive change.

With double-digit unemployment, record numbers of under-employed, and no economic relief in sight, the Great Recession has left more than one in six Californians living in poverty. A recent AARP Foundation study shows that nearly 9 million older adults face the risk of hunger – meaning they are forced to skip meals or buy poor quality food. There are an estimated 135,928 homeless living in the streets, parks, and shelters of California, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Helping seniors and the homeless find a pathway out of poverty will take a collaborative effort.

The Road to Resilience Tour is part of my “***Pathways to Wellbeing and Economic Prosperity***” (***Pathways***) program. ***Pathways*** aims to network and convene government and non-profit service providers, advocates, and stakeholders to coordinate activities and promote policies that benefit populations at risk. Generating political momentum to assist these families and seniors is particularly difficult. There is a pervasive and unfortunate view that poor people do not want to work or help themselves. This is just not true. To change this perception, we must give those living in poverty a face and a voice.

The tour will begin at ***10am on August 12th at the Burbank airport and end at 7:30pm on August 13th in Sacramento.*** The Senate Human Services Committee hearing on seniors and hunger will begin at ***1:30 pm on August 14th, in the State Capitol.*** If there is sufficient demand, the bus will return tour participants to Burbank that evening.

We will be able to provide food and bus transportation from the Burbank airport to the end of the tour. We will not be able to provide lodging or reimburse for travel expenses. Please contact Andrea Lane to ***RSVP by July 15th*** for the event andrea.lane@sen.ca.gov, or (818) 409-0400. Additional information will follow.

Sincerely,

CAROL LIU
Senator
21st District